

# The Toro Guide to Lawns & Mowers

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# Toro's engineers think it's time somebody invented a quiz to help you decide what lawn-care equipment you really need.



*The Toro Company knows a lot about mowers and lawns. Toro's Director of Manufacturing wants to share this knowledge with you.*

**M**EET BOB KENKEL. He's one of Toro's Chief Engineers and Director of Manufacturing. A Mechanical Engineer with 16 years' experience behind him, Bob is responsible for making sure every Toro model passes a half-dozen rugged safety tests and more than two dozen component tests before it reaches the production stage. Toro mowers have been known for their advanced engineering, rugged dependability and safety for 59 years. To make sure their products perform year after year, the engineers behind these mowers must know as much about lawns as they do about mowers.

The men responsible for the quality of Toro's products want to share their knowledge with you. In this booklet, you'll find out how to determine what you really need in a lawn mower. You'll see how Toro products measure up on those qualities. And you'll get valuable tips on mowing, safety and mower/lawn care that will be helpful whenever you decide to buy a mower.

First comes the problem of what mower you really *need*. A lawn mower is a big investment. And like any big investment, it's important that the

equipment you buy is the one best suited to your particular lawn. Here are the major questions Toro engineers, distributors and lawn mower dealers are asked and their answers to them.

## 1. Should I buy a reel or a rotary mower?

For most lawn owners the rotary mower is generally the best buy. The blades are less expensive and less likely to get out of adjustment. This insures you of an even cut each time, with less necessity of professional maintenance.

Do you have a lawn of upright grasses, like the Kentucky Bluegrasses? This type of grass needs to be mowed tall (about two inches high). The rotary mower handles taller grass beautifully.

Is your lawn uneven? An uneven ground surface with lumps and gullies can be camouflaged to appear more even by a higher cut of grass. Again, for higher cut, the rotary is your best bet.

Do you have crabgrass or heavy weeds? The rotary mower cuts through these with ease, while they could throw a reel mower out of adjustment.

Does your lawn have many obstacles, like flower beds or trees? A rotary

mower does a far better job of trimming edges and cutting hard-to-reach areas. It's also a lot easier to maneuver.

Do you plan to spend the time and effort necessary to have a perfect, showcase lawn like a putting green? For the lawn perfectionist, the reel mower is the only one to do the job. The extra time invested in adjustment and maintenance is rewarded by the fine, scissor-like cut and manicured appearance.

Do you have low-lying creeping grasses or any of the bent grasses? These need to be mowed low, at a height of about a half-inch. The reel mower is best for the low, even cut that these grasses demand.

Toro makes a complete line of 22 home and professional ride and walk reel and rotary mowers.



*Pace your lawn to see how much mower you really need.*

## 2. What cutting width do I need?

The choice here is up to you. Naturally, mowing is easier and takes less time if the mower takes a wider swath of grass at each cut. A 19-inch mower is fine for a small lawn. If you want to cut mowing time, you might prefer the 21-inch width. This will mow your grass 10 percent faster than a 19-inch mower. If you decide on a rider mower, you generally have a choice in cutting widths of up to 36 inches.

One important thing to note in relation to blade size is the horsepower of the motor. With an increase in cutting width, an increase in horsepower is generally needed.

## 3. Should I push the lawn mower or get a self-propelled model?

Is your lawn hilly or terraced? If it is, a self-propelled mower is probably your best choice, since it eliminates the strain

of pushing a mower over uneven grounds.

Do you have a large, unbroken expanse of lawn? Once again, the self-propelled mower is at its best under these conditions and eliminates a lot of the wear and tear on you.

Do you have many obstacles and hard-to-reach areas? For tight mowing areas a hand push mower is often recommended because you'll need to back up and turn around a lot. If you do decide on a self-propelled mower, get one equipped with front wheel drive. It increases its maneuverability. To change direction, all you do is tip the machine back slightly and place the front wheels in the direction you want to go.



*Sophisticated or intricate gardens require a maneuverable mower.*

Toro makes 5 hand-propelled and 7 self-propelled walk mowers. All the self-propelled models have front wheel drive.

#### **4. Should I buy a walk mower or a rider?**

This decision, too, is largely a question of personal preference and, of course, the size of your lawn. If your health or age makes strenuous exercise dangerous, a rider is a necessity. A walk mower is generally fine for any lawn up to a half acre (21,780 square feet). A lawn larger than that usually requires a rider. Even if your lawn is small, though, you may prefer to buy a rider. It makes mowing and your other yard chores easier, since there are often a number of attachments that it can pull or push.

Toro makes a full line of 8 rider mowers with a complete variety of attachments and optional equipment.

#### **5. Should I buy a mower with hand or electric starting?**

This is basically a matter of convenience. Granted, electric start costs more. But it saves you the trouble of pulling the hand start to get the motor going. This is especially important for people who use a bagging attachment and have to stop the motor each time they empty the bag. All you do is turn the key in the ignition and the engine starts—just like an automobile.

No matter which method you

choose, easy starting is dependent on a clean air filter. That means cleaning the filter two or three times during the mowing season. Choose a mower with a filter that's easy to clean so that it's easy to get a quick start every time.

Toro makes 10 walk mowers with hand start and 2 with Key-Lectric® start. All Toro mowers are equipped with an air filter that's a polyurethane sponge in a box right on top of the engine. Cleaning takes less than 2 minutes—just squeeze the sponge in solvent, let it dry and replace it.

#### **6. Do I need a bagging attachment for my mower?**

It's generally best to remove clippings from your lawn. As stated in the Lawn Care Tips on page 7, a heavy layer of clippings is likely to weigh down your grass. It may also prevent needed moisture and fertilizer from reaching the root zone.

You can remove grass clippings manually with a rake. Naturally, it's much easier and less time consuming to use a bagging attachment on your lawn mower. If you do decide to use a bagger, be sure the bag is easy to remove or empty, and is made of fiber sturdy enough to prevent stones or other debris from being thrown through it. Again, since bagging means you have to stop and start more often, electric start makes it easier and faster.

Toro's Guardian™ line comes with the bagger as standard equipment. The Whirlwind® line has a low-priced, strong bagging attachment as optional equipment.

#### **Important points to consider before buying any mower.**

**1. Where are the controls located?** Walk mowers are easier and safer to use if the controls are located within easy reach on the handle.

On a rider mower, be sure all controls are within easy reach *in front of you*. You should not have to turn around to see the controls.

**2. Does the mower start quickly?** If it does, it saves you time and aggravation. It also saves wear and tear on the engine.



*Your main choice is between a rotary walk or rider mower. Be sure your decision is based on the right reasons.*

**3. Is the mower easy to handle?** Test a walk mower for maneuverability. It should be light enough to turn easily and quickly. Again, front wheel drive on a self-propelled mower increases its handling ability.

On a rider mower, the steering control is important. It is easier to control a rider with a conventional steering wheel than with mower handlebars.

**4. Is it easy to adjust the cutting height?** The height controls should be easy to reach and operate.

**5. Has the manufacturer provided for your safety?** No matter what type of mower, you should be protected at all times from debris which could be ejected by the mower blade. Also, be sure to check for protection against accidentally exposing your hands or feet to the cutting blade.

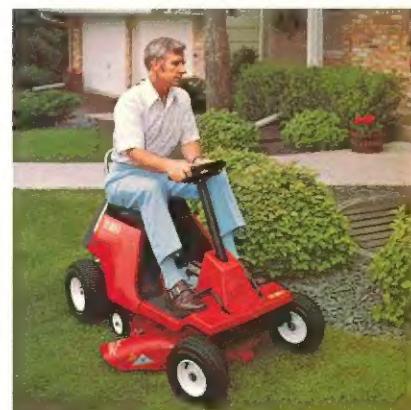
On rider mowers, check to be sure your legs are protected from contact with the engine when it's heated. Also be sure the rider can be stopped quickly by a braking/clutch mechanism.

**6. Do you have the storage room necessary for the type of mower you plan to buy?** If the mower is too large to fit in an already crowded garage, consider building a special shed to house it or cover it with a tarpaulin.

**7. Is the machine easy to have serviced?** Proper maintenance is necessary to the long life of any mower. And though it's harder to build a simple machine than a complex one, Toro has designed all its mowers for simplified maintenance.

However, for those times when professional service is needed, be certain that there is a qualified maintenance facility nearby that knows how to service *your* brand of mower.

Now that you have some idea of the important factors that determine the type of equipment that's right for you, read on to see how many choices Toro gives you to meet those needs. Be sure you read the tips on easier mowing, safety and lawn and mower maintenance. They're important for *any* lawn and mower. Following them will help you have a more attractive trouble-free lawn and will add to the service life and efficiency of your equipment.



# There is nothing like a few summers with a problem mower to make a man ripe for a Toro.<sup>®</sup>

Toro mowers are different from run-of-the-mill mowers. They aren't just hardware, they're precision machines, tireless machines. And for 1973, the equally tireless Toro engineers have made them safer, sturdier than ever. Toros work. And they keep on working.

Anyone with a wrench can slap together an engine, a blade and some sheet metal and start selling lawn mowers. Toro aims for something more. That's why Toro has been in business for 59 years.

One result of aiming high is a steeper purchase price than ordinary machines. But it's also led to one engineering first after another. Millions of Toro sales. An owner group whose loyalty to the Toro trademark is the envy of the industry. And

with all its engineering superiority, you can still buy a Toro mower for less than \$100. Like the one across the page, for instance.

This Whirlwind will cut your lawn cleanly, evenly and as smoothly as a barber shaves your face. So will the other 21 models in the Toro mower line. People don't seem to mind paying a little more for a mower that does a lot more.

Take a look below at the important features that make every Toro, regardless of price, a precision machine that's unique in the lawn mower industry. Look through the rest of the line and see how far Toro has gone to solve your lawn-care problems. Then ask yourself, "Haven't you gone without a Toro long enough?"

## What makes a Toro a Toro

**1 Wind-Tunnel<sup>®</sup> Housing** vacuums as you mow. Toro's vacuum action sucks up clippings as you mow. It also sucks grass upright for a straight, even cut. And instead of the flat cutting blade normally found on rotary mowers, Toro's aerodynamically designed blade is tilted like an airplane propeller to add to the vacuum action.

**2 Spiral Aluminum Grass Chamber** is light, won't rust. The Toro blade housing is made from die-cast aluminum alloy. This gives you two benefits. It won't rust and it's light, easy to handle. Because it's a smooth spiral, there are no corners to catch grass clippings that can clog the machine.

**3 Tilted Cutting Blade** helps keep grass from turning brown. On most rotary mowers the cutting blade is mounted flat, so that as it spins it whacks grass twice instead of once. This second whack often shatters grass and turns it brown. Toro tilts its blade  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch downward toward the front to give grass one clean cut.

**4 Side Deflector Bar** helps deflect flying stones. Toro has installed a deflector bar inside the discharge chute. This bar helps angle stones and sticks toward the ground rather than flinging them out through the air.

**5 Rear Safety Shield** helps protect your toes. Every Toro comes equipped with a drag shield at the rear of the blade housing. This does two things. It helps prevent your feet from making accidental contact with the blade if you should slip. It also helps protect you from debris thrown out by the mower by angling stones downward like the deflector bar.

**6 Anti-Scalp Disc** protects lawn. All Toro rotary mowers have a small cup installed at the center of the blade. This helps prevent scalping your lawn when you mow over hills and banks.

**7 4-Cycle Engine** means no mixing gas and oil. The engine runs similarly to an automobile engine, with separate fill ports for gas and oil. Unlike many mowers, this means no fiddling with gas and oil mixtures.

**8 Handle-Mounted Engine Control** gives you one lever to adjust engine speed and stop the mower. Safer and more convenient than engine-mounted controls because it helps keep operator away from engine and blade.

**9 Fingertip Height Adjustment** makes adjusting cutting height easy and accurate. Height adjustment levers are located on both front and rear wheels of Toro's mowers. Just pull the lever out, turn the wheel and the lever snaps into the clearly marked indicators.

**10 Easy-to-Clean Air Filter**. Toro's special air filter is a polyurethane sponge located in a box on top of the engine. You don't have to fish for it. Just remove it, squeeze it in solvent, let it dry, add oil and put it back. It only needs cleaning periodically, takes two minutes to do, and helps insure a quick start every time.

**11 Topside Wash-Out Port.** Every Toro comes equipped with a wash-out port located on top of the housing that allows you to flush the underside with your garden hose while the engine is running. This means easier, more thorough cleaning, without endless hand scraping of grass clippings hardened onto the housing.

# Basic Whirlwind® Mower\*

## \$99.95



\*All prices shown throughout this book are the manufacturer's suggested retail prices for Fair Trade States only.

## Wider Whirlwind — \$119.95



In addition to all the special features found on the basic Toro, you get an additional two inches of cutting blade to cut your lawn in 10 percent less time. Toro has increased horsepower to give you the power to match blade size. Model 16173.

## Self-propelled Whirlwind — \$159.95



Self-propelled to save you exertion as well as cutting time. Like all self-propelled Toros, the \$159.95 Whirlwind has front wheel drive. That means more maneuverability for you, no matter how tight the mowing area. Model 16273.

## Optional Equipment for your Whirlwind®



drawstring. No snaps, no zippers to fiddle with. Kit comes complete with chute, bar and bag. Model 19-4220.



around and out the housing's discharge chute with hurricane force.

This helps you fill up every corner of this giant bag as you mow. Kit comes with bar and bag. Model 19-2590.

**1. Bagging Kit.** This helps you get rid of grass as easily as you cut it. The bag holds over a bushel of grass and is woven of *ballistic fiber*. This all but impregnable fabric has passed the OPEI flying nail test. Attaches and detaches quickly with a simple



**3. Lawn Dolly — \$14.95.** Handy, maneuverable all-purpose cart for yard cleanup and maintenance. You can save time by keeping it close to your mower as a central dump point for clippings.

Has dozens of other uses, too. Large, semipneumatic tires will not mark lawn. Adjusts to hold most popular size cleanup bags. Model 87077.



**4. Key-Lectric® Trimmer.** Toro's electric trimming kit, complete with rechargeable battery pack, is the easy, efficient way to trim patios, walks, drives, under fences, around trees, shrubs and gardens. 43 inches long, it weighs only 4 pounds

with battery. Comes complete with battery, charger and extra blade. Model 87088.

See this optional equipment at your Toro dealers.

# These 18 tips should help make lawn mowing easier and better.

**1. Always test your lawn for wetness.** Dry grass conditions are best for good lawn grooming. Dry grasses cut easier and pack better when bagging, minimizing clogging. However, if you must cut wet grass, choose a mower that generates good air flow and bags well so that clogging will be reduced. For best results under wet grass conditions, cut with a narrower swath than usual.



*Test your lawn for wetness.*

**2. Cut grass in good light.** Actually, the best time to mow is late afternoon or early evening. This gives you enough light to see and, at the same time, is best for your lawn. Mowing exposes the new tips of grass and the roots to the elements. By letting your lawn adjust overnight, you avoid the shock the newly cut grass may suffer by being exposed to the harsh sun.

**3. Clear off all debris before you begin.** Sticks, bottle caps and stones that haven't been removed can cause injury to you and your mower. A leisurely walk over your property to collect any loose objects saves you time by giving you nonstop mowing. It also saves you trouble.



*Adjust your mower height on a level surface.*

**4. Adjust the height of your mower on level area.** Not only is it easier to make adjustments before you reach your lawn, it's safer too. A level surface insures that both you and your mower are in a stable position. Don't forget that whenever you make any kind of mower adjustment, the motor should be turned off.

**5. Don't scalp your lawn.** Individual grasses vary as to their healthiest height. However, most upright grasses grow best at about two inches, and Bermuda grasses up to about one and a half inches. Bent grasses are generally the only ones that should be mowed low—about a half inch to one inch.

**6. Mow often.** How often you should mow depends upon the type of lawn, the growing season and the height of cut. Mow often enough so that no more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the leaf surface is removed at one time. This means that during the late spring and summer most lawns should be mowed at least twice a week.

**7. Never mow with a dull blade.** Check the blade each time you mow. Dull blades will tear and injure your lawn. You can smooth out an uneven surface on the blades of your reel mower with a flat stone. A metal file will do the same job on rotary blades. Mower blades should be removed and sharpened professionally from time to time.

**8. Tighten all mower parts periodically.** Each time you mow, be sure to check all nuts, screws and bolts for tightness. If your mower develops an odd rattle while in use, turn off the engine and check it for loose parts immediately.

**9. Check gas and oil before each mowing.** It takes just a few seconds and is another important way to keep your mower in top shape. While you're at it, make sure moving parts are properly lubricated. Besides helping to guarantee a smooth cut, regular fuel checking and lubrication also prevent the possibility of running out of gas mid-job.

**10. Check the grass bag for rips.** If the bag has holes or other signs of wear, change it before you mow. That way stones or other debris that you might have missed during your cleanup will be caught securely in the bag.

**11. Don't walk on the grass right before you mow.** To get a clean even cut, grass should be standing upright. Your mowing will be easier if you start by doing one or two mower widths around the lawn before beginning your cross-lawn cut.

**12. Mow around obstacles as you come to them.** Your mowing will be more efficient if you cut about two mower widths around trees, gardens or other obstacles as you approach them in your regular cross-lawn cut. After mowing around them, continue your regular mowing where you left off.

**13. Pave the area around lawn obstacles.** It helps if the edging around flower beds, poles and trees is cement paving or bricks laid flush to the ground. This makes mowing easier and eliminates the need to trim edges.

**14. Cut in a different direction each time you mow.** Changing your cutting pattern adds to the appearance of your lawn and helps prevent grass from growing and lying in one direction.

**15. Mow with as few interruptions as possible.** It saves time and is better for your lawn and your mower if you mow without constant stops and starts. If you do have to stop, be sure to turn off the motor.

**16. Remove all clippings unless your lawn is new.** This is especially important if you have a lot of clippings or the clippings are long. Grass left on the lawn sinks to the ground and contributes to thatch, which is an accumulation of undecomposed and partially decomposed clippings, grass stems and other organic matter. A thick layer of thatch prevents moisture and fertilizer from moving into the soil and will eventually weaken the grass. It also provides a place for fungi and insects to thrive.

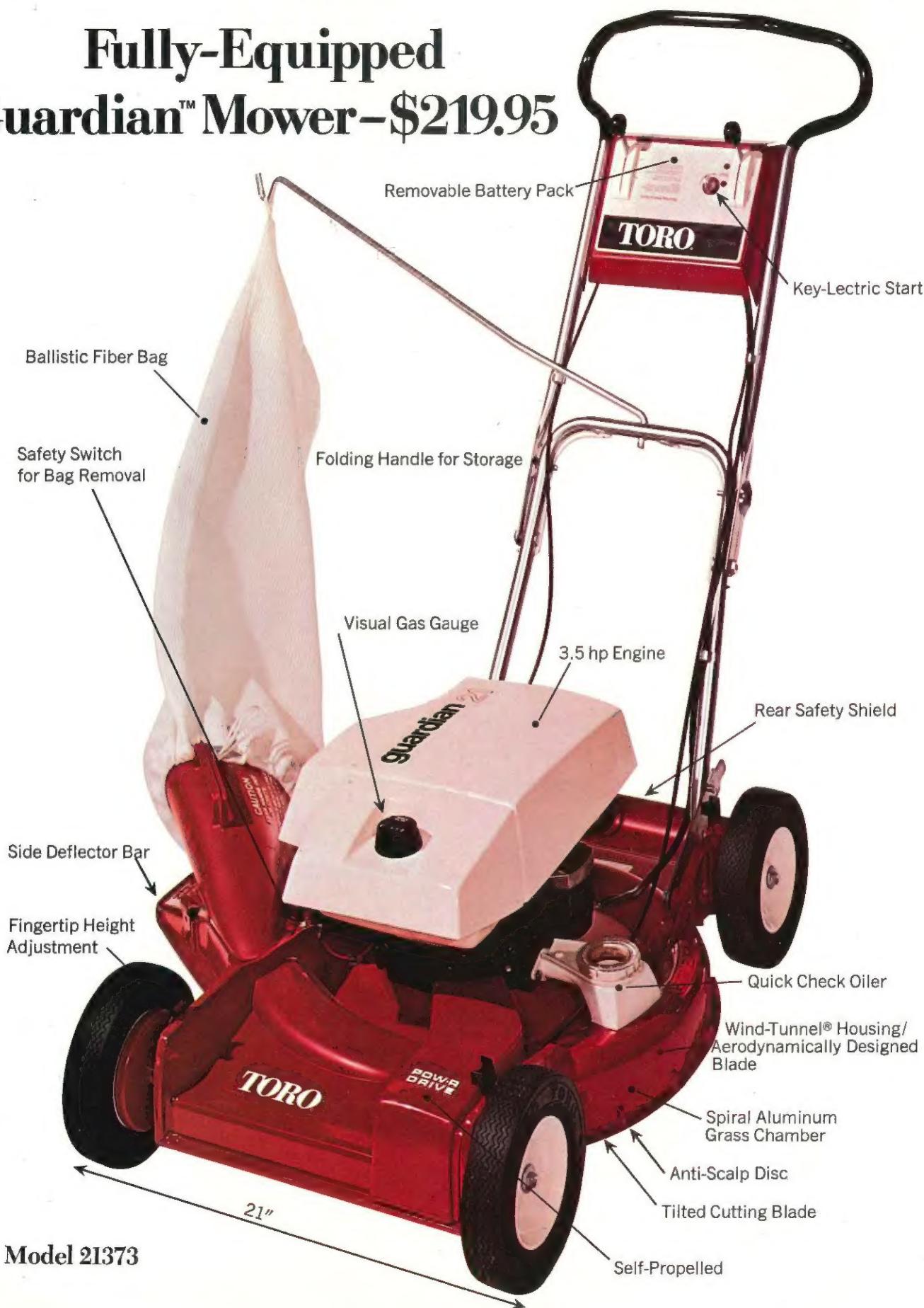


*Bagging eliminates the need to rake clippings.*

**17. Clean the mower thoroughly after mowing.** This means wiping off excess grease and oil as well as any grass that might catch in the mower.

**18. Store your mower carefully after each use.** This doesn't just mean waiting until the engine has cooled. If gas fumes from the mower can reach an open flame or spark, drain the tank before storing the mower.

# Fully-Equipped Guardian™ Mower-\$219.95



Model 21373

# Toro's engineers encourage you to pick this 1973 Guardian apart before you buy it.

Several years ago Toro decided to create a mower line that would satisfy even the most rabid lawn buff. They told their engineers to design an *ideal* machine—and then tested those ideals to make sure they *worked*. The result is the Guardian—a mower with almost every desirable feature and option you could ask for.

There are six models in the Guardian line to give you your choice of cutting widths, starting systems and hand or self-propelled mowers. But what are the major differences between the *basic* \$99.95 Whirlwind and the *basic* \$129.95 Guardian? In other words, what do you get for that extra \$30?

1. **Bagging System.** Every Guardian mower is equipped with Toro's ballistic fiber bagging system.
2. **Through-the-Deck Muffling.** Guardian's muffling system forces exhaust into the blade and grass underneath the mower rather than out the side of the engine. This means quieter operation and fewer fumes.
3. **Bag Safety Switch.** An electrical interlock system automatically shuts off the engine when bagging chute is removed. If you forget, your Guardian won't.
4. **Non-stalling Oil Pump.** A force-feed oil pump keeps

all moving engine parts lubricated even when the mower is on an incline. Better lubrication means longer engine life.

5. **Visual Gas Gauge.** You have an easy, foolproof gasoline check with this prismatic indicator. Won't clog or wear out because it has no moving parts.

6. **Quick Check Oiler.** When you're running low, it reads "Add Oil." Also has a swinging spout to allow no-spill emptying during oil changes.

7. **Folding Handle.** Folds in seconds for storing mower. Handle locks securely in position for mowing; has three optional height adjustments that can be made without tools.

8. **Vinyl-Coated Control Cables.** Self-lubricating for smoother operation, longer life.

These eight features make Guardian the ideal mower. Combined with features that make *every* Toro a Toro, they make the Guardian the easiest handling, safest, best-cutting lawn mower in the country, if not the world. Now take a look at the options you can choose from on Guardian's six different models.

## Basic Guardian — \$129.95



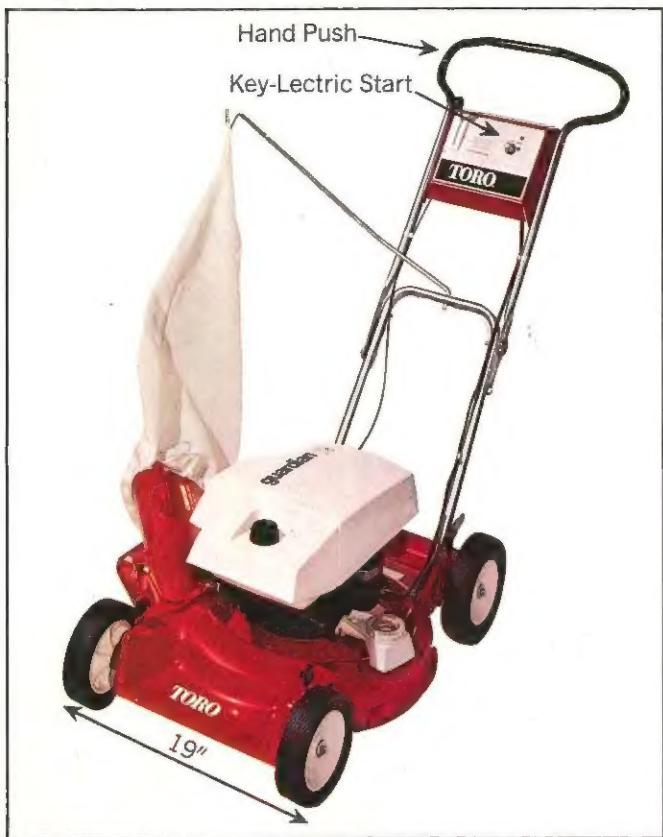
Has all the special features that make the Guardian an outstanding lawn mower, with 19" cutting-width, hand-propelled and fingertip start. Model 19173.

## Wider Guardian — \$149.95



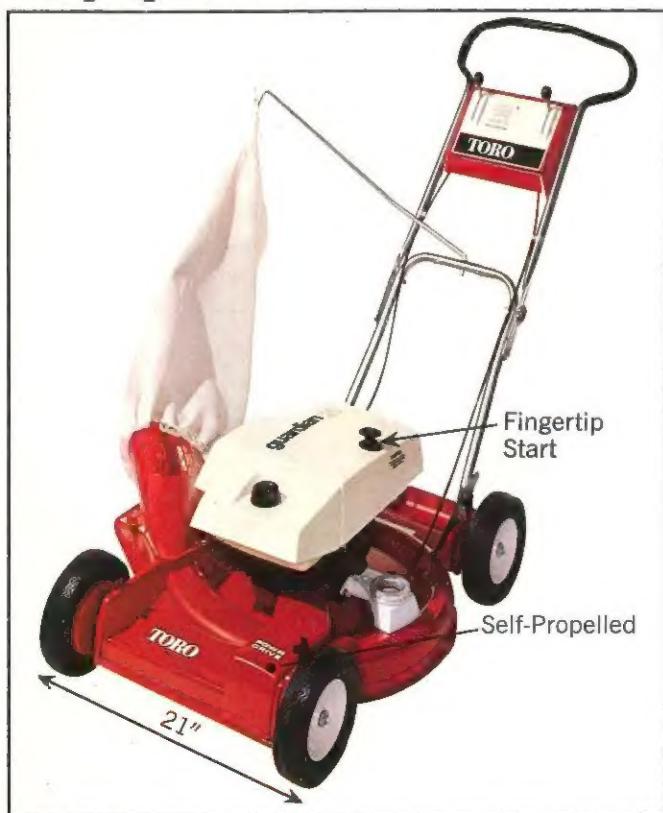
The same as the Basic Guardian, but with a 21" cutting blade that lets you mow your lawn 10% faster. To give you the extra power you need, the Wider Guardian has a 3.5 hp engine. Model 21173.

## Key-Lectric® Guardian — \$159.95



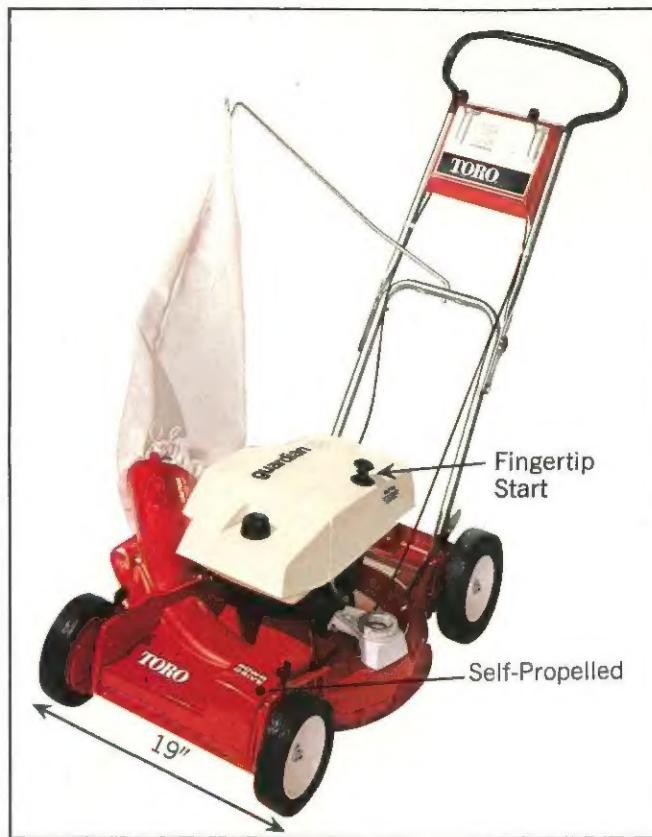
The basic 19" Guardian, with the added convenience of Key-Lectric start, the starting system that makes this mower start like a car, makes bagging easier and faster. Model 19373.

## Self-propelled 21" Guardian — \$189.95



This Guardian gives you easier self-propelled mowing along with faster mowing time of a wider cut. This one has increased engine power—3.5 hp. Like all self-propelled Toros, it has front wheel drive to make turning and maneuvering easy. Model 21273.

## Self-propelled 19" Guardian — \$169.95



This is the Guardian you'll want if you'd like your mower to do part of the pushing for you. It's especially recommended for lawns that are hilly or terraced. Model 19273.

## Optional Guardian Equipment

**1. Giant Bagging Kit.** All Guardian mowers come complete with regular bagging. For lawn cleanup the Giant Bagging Kit mentioned on page 6 offers 5-bushel capacity. Model 19-2590.

**2. Lawn Dolly—\$14.95.** Handy, maneuverable, all-purpose cart for yard cleanup and maintenance. Save time by keeping it close to mower as a central dump point for clippings. Adjusts to hold most popular size cleanup bags. Model 87077.

**3. Key-Lectric Trimmer.** If you decide on a Guardian mower with Key-Lectric start, you can power your trimmer with the mower's removable 12-volt battery pack. Or you can buy the model complete with battery and charger. Either way, the Toro Trimmer is an easy, efficient way to trim places that are difficult to reach with a mower. Without battery pack—Model 87020. With battery pack—Model 87088.

# Safety around your yard is vital, but it isn't difficult if you follow rules like these.



*Read your manual thoroughly before you use your mower.*

1. Read the owner's manual carefully and become completely familiar with all the controls before you start the engine.

2. Don't allow *anyone* to operate your rider mower until he has been properly instructed by you.

3. Never allow children to operate a power mower.

4. Know how to stop the mower quickly.

5. Pick up all debris from the lawn by hand before each mowing.

6. Clear children and pets from the mowing area. Make sure they



*Keep children and pets away while mowing.*

don't come back while you are mowing.

7. When mowing, devote your full attention to it.

8. Keep hands and feet away from the blade and stay clear of the discharge chute. *Never, never* put your hands or feet near the lower edges or the discharge area of a running mower.

9. When the mower is not in use, turn the engine off. Don't leave a running engine unattended.

10. When stopping the mower to adjust or fuel it, turn off the engine and let it cool first.

11. Before adjusting the motor or tipping the machine for inspection, turn the engine off and disconnect the spark plug. The latter will insure that the mower doesn't start accidentally.

12. Always put the cap on the gas tank before starting the mower.

13. When mowing, wear close-fitting jeans or slacks and full leather or safety shoes.



*Make sure other mower operators are fully instructed.*

14. Always push a walk mower in front of you, never pull it toward you.

15. Always stop the motor and disengage the clutch before taking the mower across paths or objects that project above the surface of the lawn.

16. With walk mowers always mow slopes sideways, never up and down. With rider mowers the reverse is true—mow slopes up and down. Mowing across slopes could tip the mower.



*Don't let your attention wander — keep your mind on the job.*

17. Operate the engine at the slowest speed that will cut satisfactorily.

18. For best results, use mower in dry grass conditions.

19. Don't run the engine indoors, the fumes are dangerous.



*Close-fitting clothes and full leather shoes are a must.*

20. Use approved gasoline containers to store fuel.

# 5 hp Standard Toro Rider-\$329.95



# Last year's new Toro Rider sold out so fast that this year it's the basis of a whole new line.

For years, Toro engineers worked overtime trying to perfect a rider mower that would combine advanced styling, ease of operation, and the performance and safety features that have always been Toro's hallmark. This past year saw the introduction of the results of this hard work—the Whirlwind Rider. It was so popular that Toro promptly sold out the model.

Now an entire *line* of mowers based on this successful introduction is available for 1973. This new line of rear engine riders gives you your choice of four models and several additional items of optional equipment.

Each model in the series has *all* the important features you see on the 5 hp Standard Rider on the left. After a *year's* experience with this production model, all the engineers thought it needed to make

it better was a simpler hood latch and improved foot pedal operation. At \$329.95, it's one of the best mower values Toro has ever offered.

As you move up the line, there are options in cutter housing, bagging, tires, transmission, electric starting and horsepower.

To provide a mower for those who want more cutting width than 25" to handle a larger, more unwieldy lawn, Toro is offering the Key-Lectric Rider with a 32" twin-blade cutting deck. The 32" Key-Lectric also has a new synchrobalanced 8 hp engine that reduces noise and vibration, in spite of the increased horsepower.

Look over the line and the optional work attachments. Toro is confident they have a rider that can make your mowing a breeze and help you get your other special yard chores done faster and easier, too.

## 5 hp Premium Rider — \$389.95



Wind-Tunnel Housing vacuums as you mow just like the Toro walk mowers. Sucks up clippings and grass like a vacuum for a clean, even cut. The 4-speed, in-line transmission with a variety of speeds/power for almost every lawn-care need. The pneumatic front tires give your mower wider traction, improved steering and are easier on your lawn. Model 56020.

## 5 hp Key-Lectric Premium — \$449.95



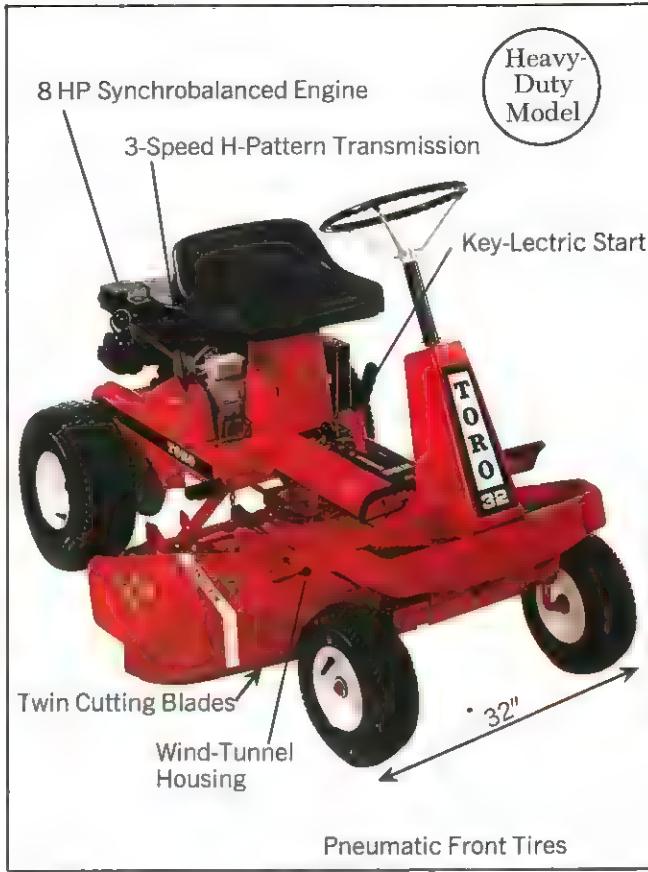
The same mower as the 5 hp Premium Rider, but with the convenience of Key-Lectric start that lets you start the mower like a car. The pivoting axle, found on all the riders, gives you more maneuverability on uneven lawn surfaces. Model 56025.

## 7 hp Key-Lectric Premium — \$499.95



This Toro rider is the same as the 5 hp Electric, but with the extra power of a 7 hp engine. This added strength is best for lawns that are large, rough or hilly, and it's especially helpful if you plan to use your rider for all those extra, year-round lawn tasks. Model 56030.

## 8 hp 32" Key-Lectric



This rider has the same vacuum-like Wind-Tunnel housing, but with *twin* cutting blades to give you a wide 32" cut. It has a 3-speed, H-pattern transmission like a car and an 8 hp engine to power its extra cutting width. The synchrobalanced engine also reduces noise and vibration. Model 56180.

### Toro Rider Optional Equipment

1. **Yard Dump Cart.** Holds 400 lbs. Light and maneuverable. Fits all models in the line. Model 59070.
2. **Heavy-Duty Dumpcart.** 8.2 cubic feet and a 1,000 pound capacity for big yard chores. Has pneumatic tires and a removable tailgate. Fits both the 7 hp Electric Premium and 8 hp 32" Key-Lectric. Model 59003.
3. **Trailer-Sweeper.** Cleans up lawn debris quickly, easily, completely. Model 59065 (26"). Model 59066 (31"). Model 59067 (38").
4. **Seeder-Spreader.** Makes fertilizing and reseeding easy thanks to a broadcast wheel that spreads an even 8-foot pattern. 40-lb. capacity and a stop-start mechanism mounted on the handle end. Fits all rider models. Model 59068.
5. **Bagging Kit.** Large capacity. Side-mounted for easy operation. Comes complete with chute attachment and holder bar. Fits all but 5 hp standard and 32" Key-Lectric. Model 19-2800.
6. **Electric Trimmer**—\$14.95. Lets you trim those hard-to-get areas without ever leaving the driver's seat. Runs off electric start battery. Fits Key-Lectric Premium Riders and 32" Key-Lectric. Model 56173.
7. **Snow Dozer Blade.** 30" blade helps move 6-8 inches of snow with little effort. Adjustable heights, left or right 25-degree angle adjustments and lift lever. Fits 8 hp 32" Key-Lectric only. Model 59069.
8. **Tire Chains.** For extra traction when plowing snow. For 8 hp 32" Key-Lectric only. Model 11-0420 (15 x 600-6).
9. **Storage Bar Kit.** For easy, compact upright storage position after oil is drained and battery removed. Fits 8 hp 32" Key-Lectric only. Model 11-3810.
10. **Backrest**—\$7.95. For more comfortable mowing. A full 2" of foam padding under tough vinyl that matches seat cover. For all riders except 32" Key-Lectric. Model 17-1290.

# Here are the secrets that will help you keep your lawn and mower in shape year round.

## 1. Cleaning up your lawn.

By the end of winter, you'll probably notice that your lawn has an accumulated layer of matted grass stems, undecomposed clippings and other debris. This thatch should be removed or thinned as soon as the frost is out of the ground since it may prevent necessary moisture and fertilizer from reaching the root zone. This may be done with a fine-toothed lawn rake or, preferably, with a power rake that can be rented from many equipment suppliers.

## 2. Getting your lawn green.

After any thatch has been removed, mow off the top half-inch of brown grass to accelerate growth. This removes the dead portion of the leaf that has acted as an insulating layer, exposing the plant to the spring sun and rain. This plus the food stored from the previous fall results in growth and green grass.



Rake thatch off in early spring.

## 3. Feeding your lawn.

Generally it's best to give your lawn only enough fertilizer to make it green. Overfertilization may make grass soft, weak and more susceptible to disease-producing organisms or insects.

However, in the spring leaf growth is rapid due to food stored from the fall and nitrogen accumulated during the winter. Forcefeeding the lawn in early spring will cause excessive leaf growth. It may also produce a comparatively shallow root growth and result in weak grass and an unhealthy lawn.

It is generally best to apply fertilizer twice a year—in late spring and early fall—at the rate recommended by the fertilizer manufacturer. The newspaper gardening columnist, county agricultural agent or local golf course superintendent can give professional recommendations.

The fall application, applied in late summer or early fall, should be a "complete" fertilizer—one that contains nitrogen phosphate and potash. This is the time when the plant stores the food reserves needed to survive the winter and provide spring growth. Correct fertilization in the fall is the key to healthy growth. It helps the grass get an equal start with the weeds in spring.

Late summer or early fall is also the best time to plant many varieties of grasses. Be sure to check the proper planting time for the seed you plan to use, then follow the supplier's directions, applying fertilizer prior to planting.



Fertilize in late spring and early fall.

## 4. Watering your lawn.

All lawn areas need to be sprinkled, but amount and frequency depend on rainfall, the kind of soil and how much water your grass needs to grow properly. During particularly hot weather and in dry climates, watering is essential if the lawn is to be kept green and growing.

Grass in need of water shows definite signs. During the day it will have a bluish cast. Footprints will remain on the lawn because the grass doesn't spring back when stepped on. If these symptoms occur, water your lawn. But be sure to water it properly.

Grass must be watered deep, so that the water penetrates to the root zone (4-6 inches). Light sprinkling may not do this and will therefore allow only shallow root growth, leading to weak, unhealthy grass. One way to judge the quantity of water being absorbed by your lawn is to place several empty containers at intervals around the lawn. When the water level in the containers reaches the desired depth, it's time to stop watering. Another more accurate way is to use a probe to check the soil

moisture level. If a probe (hollow tube) is not available, use a shovel. Apply only the amount of water that can be absorbed.

When you sprinkle is just as important as how. You should not water the lawn late in the day or in the evening. It leaves the air and ground surface damp and moist during the night—an ideal environment for fungi growth. It's best to water as early in the morning as possible.



Clean mower thoroughly after each use.

## 5. Caring for mowers year round. FALL

1. Drain gas tank completely. Then run the engine until all of the fuel in the carburetor is exhausted.

2. While the engine is still warm, drain the crankcase oil. Fill it with fresh oil.

3. Remove the spark plug. Pour one ounce of lubricating oil in the cylinder. Crank the engine several times to allow the oil to disperse, then replace the spark plug.

4. Lubricate all lubrication points.

5. Check all moving parts for damage.

6. Cover any bare metal parts with oil or rust preventative.

7. Store in a clean, dry place.

8. Clean off dirt, excess gas, oil and grass as you would after each use.

## SPRING

1. Take your mower to an authorized service dealer for inspection each winter to be sure it's ready when mowing season starts.

2. Clean the spark plug or, if necessary, replace it.

3. Make sure carburetor air filter is clean. If not, take it apart and clean it thoroughly.

4. Fill fuel tank with gas and check oil level.

# Toro had more than 50 years of lawn-care experience before bringing out a complete debris-handling line. The result: a machine for every clean-up job.

## 3.5 hp and 5 hp Shredder

A mobile clean-up center that will shred debris to as little as 1/10 its original size. That means that in minutes you can change 10 bushels of dry leaves, stalks and 3/4-inch diameter twigs into 1 to 2 bushels of fine, rich mulch for composting. There's also an optional 5-bushel bagging attachment that will turn your Shredder into a Shredder-Bagger that lets you bag your shredded debris automatically for easy removal.

The 3.5 hp Shredder has two hardened steel shredding blades, while the heavy-duty 5 hp model has three blades for the really tough jobs. Both models have rubber-cushioned shock mounts that reduce vibrations and help protect the blades from damage if stones or large branches are accidentally fed in. Model 62837 (3.5 hp) \$149.95. Model 62853 (5 hp) \$179.95. Optional 5-bushel bag attachment. Model 17-7880.



## 5 hp Lawn Vacuum

Lets you rid your lawn of clippings, leaves, sticks and small stones that repeated rakings leave behind—and won't uproot the grass like raking may. Its big 5 hp engine cleans deep and the oversize vacuum head clears a huge 30-inch path in one swipe, so that it can clear a normal quarter-acre lawn in less than an hour.



A heavy-duty 7-bushel bag lined with dust-catching fabric collects the debris. It's reusable and has a full-width side zipper for easy emptying.

Besides making fast work of clearing your lawn, the Lawn Vacuum works just as hard to clear your walk or driveway in minutes. There's even an optional 11-foot extension hose that lets you clean under shrubs and in other hard-to-reach areas. Model 62900 \$219.95. Optional extension hose. Model 59083.

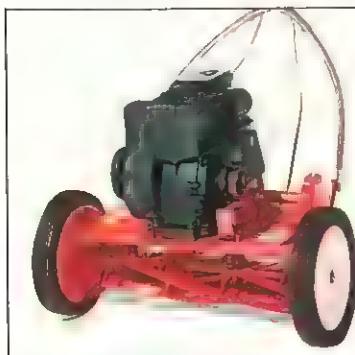
## 5 hp Leaf Blower

Another way to eliminate raking—just start the engine and aim the nozzle. A powerful stream of air shoots leaves and litter straight forward or straight across at a distance of up to 20 feet. An optional 11-foot blower hose lets you blow leaves out of shrubs or clean out low-level downspouts and gutters.

To double the uses of your Leaf Blower, there's an optional bagging kit that comes complete with a 5-bushel bag and 11-foot vacuum hose. It comes in handy for cleaning hard to reach areas around the outside of your house, as well as picking up the piles of debris you made with the blower. Model 62905 \$169.95. Blower extension hose. Model 59081. Bagging kit with vacuum hose. Model 59080.



# The 1973 Toro Walk Mower Line



**Sportlawn® Lo-Cut Reel.** With 6-blade reel and an 18" cutting width.



**Sportlawn 21" Lo-Cut Reel.** Has the same 6-blade reel, but gives you wider cutting width for faster mowing.



**Sportlawn 21" Hi-Cut Reel.** Has a 5-blade reel to give taller grass the manicured appearance only a reel mower achieves.



**Basic Whirlwind.** Has 19" cutting width, is hand start and hand push.



**Wider Whirlwind.** Same as the Basic, but with 21" cutting width for larger lawns.



**Self-Propelled Whirlwind.** Has the same wide cut, but is self-propelled for easier mowing.



**Basic Guardian.** Has 19" cutting blade, is hand push and hand start, has all the special Guardian line features.



**Wider Guardian.** Gives you a 21" cutting blade for larger lawns or shorter mowing time.



**Key-Lectric Guardian.** Has 19" cutting width and is hand push. Key-Lectric start to let you start your mower like a car.



**Self-Propelled 19" Guardian.** Like the Basic, but self-propelled to make mowing easier.



**Self-Propelled 21" Guardian.** Gives you a wider cutting width to make mowing faster as well as easier.



**Fully Equipped Guardian.** Has all the extras — Key-Lectric start, 21" cutting blade and self-propelled.



**Whirlwind Bagging Kit/Giant Bagging Kit.** Give you bagging as an option for your Whirlwind. Also available for Guardian.



**Lawn Dolly.** An all-purpose cleanup cart that holds most popular size cleanup bags.



**21" Heavy-Duty Rotary.** With extra-heavy construction for institutional or day-in, day-out use.



**25" Heavy-Duty Rotary.** Has same construction for rugged commercial use, but wider cutting blade.

# The 1973 Toro Rider Line



**5 hp Standard Toro Rider.** Has 25" cutting blade and is hand start.



**5 hp Premium Rider.** Has same 25" cutting blade, but with Wind-Tunnel Housing that vacuums as you mow.



**5 hp Key-Lectric Premium.** The same as the 5 hp Premium, but has Key-Lectric Start so it starts like a car.



**7 hp Key-Lectric Premium.** The same as the 5 hp, but with added power for large lawns or for use in other yard chores.



**8 hp Heavy-Duty Key-Lectric.** Has a 32" cutting width to make easy mowing of large and unwieldy lawns.



**5 hp Front Engine Rider.** Has a 25" cutting deck, electric start and heavy-duty construction for year round use in yard chores.



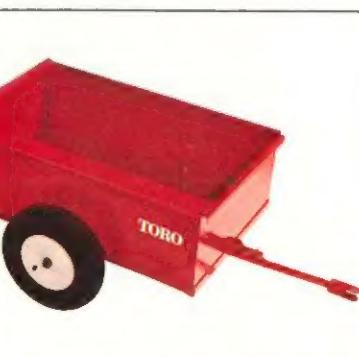
**7 hp Front Engine Rider.** The same as the 5 hp, but with a 32" cutting deck and more power for optional equipment.



**8 hp Front Engine Rider.** Has the widest cutting deck of the line — 36" — plus power for the larger rider options like the Snowthrower.



**Yard Dumpcart.** Holds 400 lbs., is light and maneuverable and fits all Toro riders.



**Heavy-Duty Dumpcart.** 1,000-lb. capacity for big yard chores and a removable tailgate. Fits 7 hp or 8 hp riders.



**Seeder Spreader.** Broadcast wheel spreads fertilizer or seed in an even, 8-foot-wide pattern. 40-lb. capacity.



**Trailer Sweeper.** Comes in three sizes to clean up lawn debris, clippings or leaves. Fits all but the 5 hp Standard Rider.



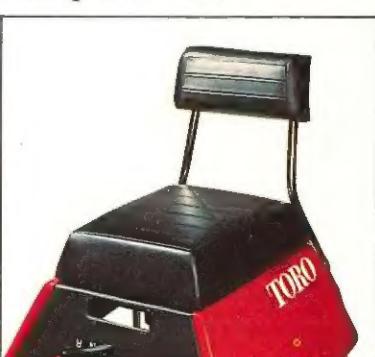
**Snow Dozer Blades / Tire Chains.** Moves 6-8 inches of snow. For Front Engine Riders and the 8 hp Heavy-Duty Electric.



**Snowblower.** High-speed single stage auger throws snow up to 25'. Fits 8 hp Front Engine Rider.



**Storage Bar Kit.** Bar fits rear of 8 hp Heavy-Duty Electric to let you store mower in an upright position during the winter.



**Backrest.** 2" of foam-padded vinyl for more comfortable mowing. Fits all rear engine riders except the 8 hp Heavy-Duty Electric.

# The 1973 Toro Ground Care Equipment Line



**Shredder.** 3.5 hp or 5 hp, shreds leaves, clippings and small twigs to 1/10 their original size.



**Shredder Bagging Kit.** Attaches to either shredder to give you convenient removal of lawn debris.



**Lawn Vacuum.** 30" vacuum head sucks up clippings, leaves and debris that repeated raking leave behind. Has reusable 7-bushel bag.



**Vacuum Trailer Hitch.** Hooks your Lawn Vacuum to your Rider for faster, easier cleanup.



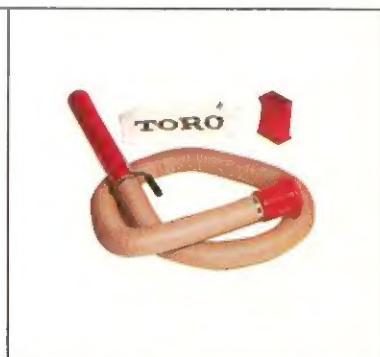
**Vacuum Extension Hose.** An 11-foot hose that attaches to the front of the Lawn Vacuum. Lets you clean tight spots easily.



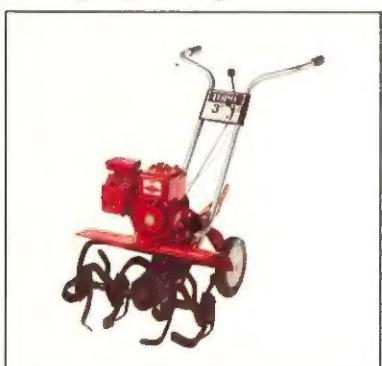
**Leaf Blower.** Blows leaves and other debris to a distance of 20' to make lawn or drive cleanup easy.



**Blower Extension Hose.** Attaches to Leaf Blower to clean out hard-to-reach areas.



**Blower Vacuum Kit.** Hose attaches to Blower and makes it a vacuum. Makes debris bagging easy and doubles the Blower's uses.



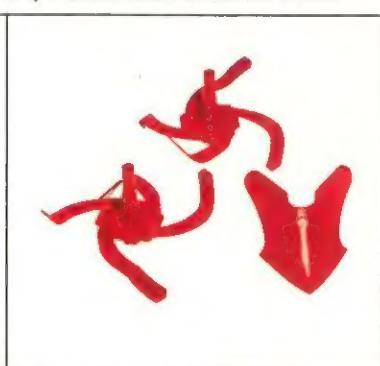
**3 hp Tiller.** Has 26" tilling width with a single speed forward and reverse.



**4 hp Tiller.** Has 26" tilling width, two forward speeds. Low for sod busting and high for blending soil into extra-fine seed bed.



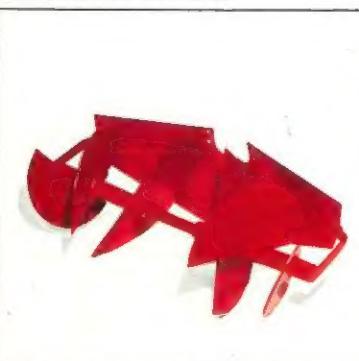
**5 hp Tiller.** For those who need extra tilling power. Like the other tillers, churns to any desired depth from 1" to 8".



**Furrowing Tool/Bolo Tine Extensions.** Furrower plows furrows easily. Extensions attach to tiller to expand width to 40".



**Slasher Tines/Pick Tines.** Slasher tines make tilling easier on untilled soil. Pick tines are best for hard-packed soil.



**Til-Row.** Works in place of the tines, pushing up tilled soil to form rows for planting.



**58" Pro Mower.** 5 hp reel mower with wide 58" cutting width for estate lawns.



**Moist O'Matic.** Underground sprinkler system gives you uniform, slow watering with maximum coverage at minimum pressure.

# The Model by Model Toro Mower Guide

## Special Features and Options

Model	Cutting Width	Starting System	Self-Propelled	Bagging	Yard Dumpcart	Heavy-Duty Dumpcart	Snow Thrower	Dozer Blades	Trailer Sweeper	Seeder-Spreader	Tire Chains	Foam-Padded Backrest	Price
<b>Whirlwind Line</b>													
Model 16073	19"	Hand Start		Optional									\$ 99.95
Model 16173	21"	Hand Start		Optional									\$119.95
Model 16273	21"	Hand Start	✓	Optional									\$159.95
<b>Guardian Line</b>													
Model 19173	19"	Hand Start		✓	✓								\$129.95
Model 19273	19"	Hand Start		✓	✓								\$169.95
Model 19373	19"	Key-Lectric		✓	✓								\$159.95
Model 21173	21"	Hand Start		✓	✓								\$149.95
Model 21273	21"	Hand Start	✓	✓	✓								\$189.95
Model 21373	21"	Key-Lectric		✓	✓								\$219.95
<b>Sportlawn Reel Mowers</b>													
Model 10018	18"	Hand Start		✓									\$159.95
Model 10121 (Lo-Cut)	21"	Hand Start		✓									\$179.95
Model 10221 (Hi-Cut)	21"	Hand Start	✓										\$179.95
<b>Rear Engine Riders</b>													
Model 56015 5 hp	25"	Hand Start		Optional	X								\$329.95
Model 56020 5 hp	25"	Hand Start		Optional	X								\$389.95
Model 56025 5 hp	25"	Key-Lectric		Optional	X								\$449.95
Model 56030 7 hp	25"	Key-Lectric		Optional	X								\$499.95
Model 56180 8 hp	32"	Key-Lectric		Optional	X								
<b>Front Engine Riders</b>													
Model 57017 5 hp	25"	Key-Lectric		Optional	X								
Model 57228 7 hp	32"	Key-Lectric		Optional	X								
Model 55166 8 hp	36"	Key-Lectric		Optional	X								

✓ = standard equipment

X = optional equipment

## The Toro Promise

The Toro Company promises to repair any TORO product for the original purchaser if defective in materials or workmanship. The following time periods from the date of purchase apply:

Residential products .....	1 year
Residential products used commercially .....	45 days
Institutional products .....	90 days

The costs of parts and labor are included, but the customer pays the transportation costs. Just return any residential product to an authorized TORO Service Dealer, or any institutional product to a TORO Distributor.

